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# PEOPLE & PLACES

With **BIANCA T. JACOB**

## JCA gets new ED

Deborah Headley is the new executive director of the **Jamaican-Canadian Association (JCA)**. Deborah brings with her

years of social work and administrative experience both in Ontario and Montreal.

Much of her experience is in the area of children's mental health. She has worked with both Black and youth or-



**DEBORAH HEADLEY**

ganizations, including a Black community centre in Montreal's **Cote des Neiges**.

Her social work experience will be useful at the **JCA**, which offers programs in family counselling, immigrant settlement, seniors support, remedial tutoring, career orientation, youth employment and victims assistance.

Deborah worked as a teacher at **George Brown College's Faculty of Community Services** before coming to the **JCA**. She has lots of administrative experience garnered from several managerial positions.

Under her tenure she wants the **JCA** to offer even more services, and

to use its large new quarters as a true community gathering place. She feels that it is important that people in the community feel welcome in the building.

Deborah was born in Middlesex, England of Barbadian parents. She grew up in Montreal.

## Santa arrives

The mistletoe was hung and all the world was waiting for **Santa Claus**, when **JCA** member **Winston Brown** approached his boss at **Teak Direct Sales** to suggest that he purchase a raffle ticket to support the **Jamaican Canadian Centre Building Fund**.

He told his boss that the top prize for the raffle was a shiny, brand new Ford Escort.

**Sebastian Scillipoti** thought it was a splendid idea and he bought 16 tickets, which he included in each employee's Christmas pay envelope. Well, one of those employees, **Irjap Iranshahi**, who is from Iran, won the car when the draw took place at a fundraising dance last Saturday.

I met **Irjap** at a presentation held on Tuesday and he is a man of few words. Yes, he already has a nice vehicle and he is quite unsure of what he is going to do. He was understandably happy, and so was his boss.

**Winston** told me that even after the boss bought tickets for everyone, **Irjap** had purchased three more because he felt it was for a good cause. "I am glad it happened to him," said **Winston**, who sold 130 tickets.

I didn't meet the second prize winner **Sonia Facey**, who is a member of the **JCA**, or third place winner **Richard Lis**, who was unaccounted for at

presentation time. **Sonia** won tickets for two to Jamaica, and **Richard**, a colour television.

**Herman Stewart**, the **JCA** president, has mixed feelings about the campaign. He recognizes that in raising \$60,000, the raffle was the largest single fundraiser in the 35-year history of the **JCA**. However, he feels badly about the additional \$40,000 that could have been raised if all the tickets had been sold.

**Herman** praised **Northtown Ford**. He said the management and



staff brought the car to malls and many other promotional events at no cost to the **JCA**. **Northtown** also agreed to wait until the raffle was over before the **JCA** paid for the car. Other dealerships had insisted on money upfront.

Although the raffle is over, the fundraising campaign is ongoing in